

HUNTING RULES & REGULATIONS

Refuge-specific regulations for hunting on National Wildlife Refuges are set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 50, Part 32. Copies may be requested from the Refuge Office. The following summary is for your convenience.

License Requirements

All hunters on Maine Coastal Island NWR must follow the licensing guidelines set by the state of Maine. Hunters must be in possession of their state hunting license at all times while hunting on the refuge.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in part 32).

Hours

We allow hunters to enter the refuge one hour before legal shooting hours, and they must exit the refuge by one hour past legal shooting hours, except for hunters pursuing raccoons or coyotes at night.

Tree Stands/Blinds

The construction or use of permanent structures is prohibited on refuge lands. Only temporary or portable blinds or ladders may be used.

Trimming or cutting branches is prohibited. It is unlawful to drive a nail, spike, climbing screw, or other metal object into any tree or to hunt from any tree in which a nail, spike, climbing screw, or other metal object has been driven.

All tree stands must have the name, address, phone number, and hunting license number of the owner clearly printed on any stand that is left overnight. Big game hunters must remove all tree stands, blinds, and ladders from the refuge on the last day of muzzleloader deer season.

Migratory game bird hunters are required to remove all portable or temporary blinds and decoys from the refuge following each day's hunt.

Non- toxic Shot

Hunters must use and possess only non-toxic shot while hunting migratory game birds and small game.

Youth Hunting Day

We allow youth hunting during the state prescribed youth hunting days in accordance with state regulations and bag limits

Baiting

Baiting or hunting over bait is prohibited on the refuge for all species, including coyotes and bears.

Hunter Orange Clothing Requirements

Hunter orange clothing is required in accordance with State of Maine regulations.

Camping and fires

Camping and overnight parking are prohibited. Fires are prohibited. Please remove litter from the refuge.

Vehicles

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on refuge roads. Vehicles are permitted only on public roads and refuge access roads. Off road vehicles including ATV's are prohibited.

Alcoholic Beverages

The possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Falconry

Falconry is not permitted on the Refuge.

Crows

We prohibit the hunting of crows.

Dogs

We allow only pointing, flushing and retrieving dogs. No pursuit hounds may be used to hunt animals such as raccoon, fox, bobcat, coyote and bear.

Trapping

Trapping is not permitted on any Maine Coastal Islands NWR property.

Artificial Light

The use of a spotlight or any other artificial light, including automotive headlights for the purpose of spotting, locating, or taking any animal is prohibited all year. *Except during night coyote hunting season with proper equipment and permits.

Areas open to Hunting

Petit Manan Point Division (Steuben):

A portion of Petit Manan Point is open to muzzleloader hunting for white-tail deer during the State of Maine muzzleloader season. (See attached map) No other hunting is allowed.

Sawyer's Marsh Division (Milbridge):

This area is open to the hunting of migratory game birds and waterfowl, and small and big game.

Gouldsboro Bay Division (Gouldsboro):

This area is open to the hunting of migratory game birds and waterfowl, and small and big game.

Bois Bubert Island (Milbridge):

This area is open to white-tailed deer hunting only.

Maine Coastal Islands NWR Islands:

Twenty eight islands are open to hunting of migratory waterfowl: (See attached map).

WHERE, WHEN AND WHAT CAN YOU HUNT?

Black Bear, Bobcat and Eastern Coyote

We allow hunting of black bear, bobcat and Eastern coyote in accordance with State regulations and bag limits with the exception that all species, including coyotes, harvested on the Refuge, must be retrieved by the hunter.

When can you hunt black bear, bobcat and coyote?

- We only allow bear hunting during the firearms season for white-tailed deer.
- We allow bobcat hunting during the State Prescribed season.
- We allow coyote hunting from November 1 to March 31.
- We allow night hunting for coyotes December 16 to March 31.

Where can you hunt black bear, bobcat and coyote?

- We allow bear, bobcat and coyote hunting on Sawyer's Marsh (Milbridge) and Gouldsboro Bay Division (Gouldsboro)

White-Tail Deer

We allow hunting white-tail deer in accordance with State regulations, seasons, and bag limits at Gouldsboro Bay and Sawyers Marsh Divisions. Petit Manan Point Division is open only during the State Muzzleloader season on designated areas.

Where can you hunt Deer?

Bois Bubert Island (Milbridge)
Sawyer's Marsh (Milbridge)
Gouldsboro Bay (Gouldsboro)
Petit Manan Point (Steuben) -** **Muzzleloader Season Only**

Small Game

We allow hunting of ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, red fox, gray and red squirrel, raccoon, skunk, and woodchuck in accordance with State regulations and bag limits. Hunters must use and possess only non-toxic shot while hunting upland game.

When can you hunt Upland Game?

We allow hunting of above mentioned upland game during the State prescribed seasons; however, we prohibit hunting on refuge lands from April 1 through September 30.

Where can you hunt?

Sawyer's Marsh (Milbridge)
Gouldsboro Bay (Gouldsboro)

Migratory Game Bird Hunting

We allow hunting of ducks, geese, American woodcock, rail and Wilson's snipe in accordance to the State and Federal regulations and bag limits. See also "Non Toxic Shot" section.

When can you hunt Migratory Game Birds?
During the state prescribed seasons.

Where can you hunt Migratory Game Birds?

Sawyer's Marsh (Milbridge)
Gouldsboro Bay (Gouldsboro)
Refuge islands (28) are identified, contact refuge for more information.

We allow waterfowl hunting on the following islands:

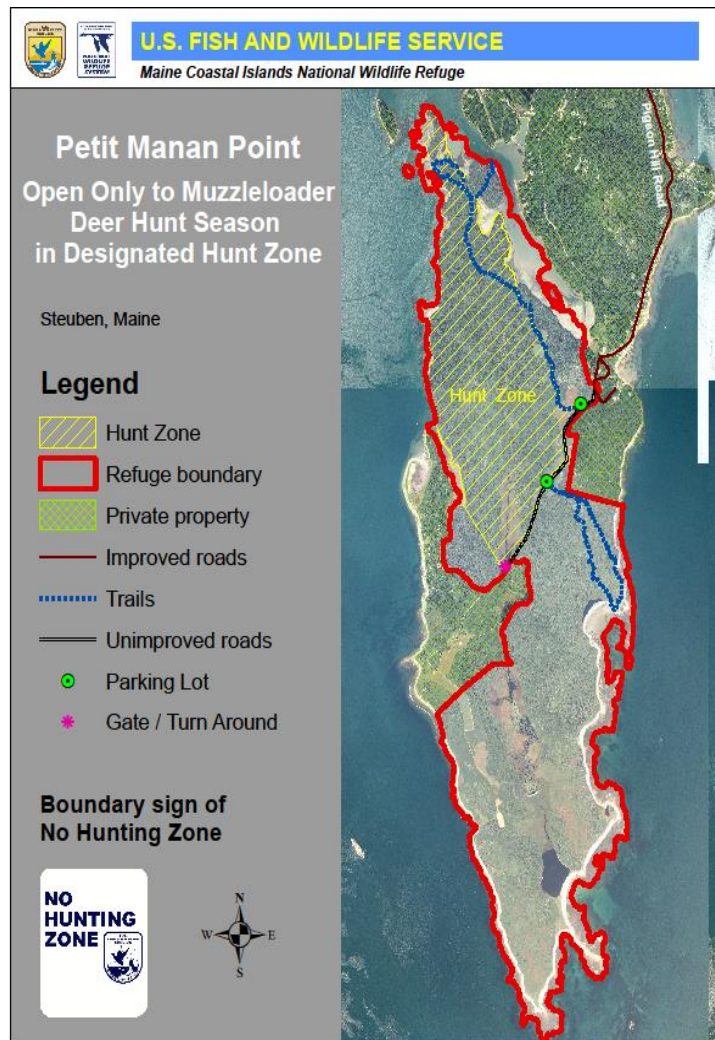
Little Libby, Eastern Brothers, Halifax, Schoppee, Inner Sand, Jordan's Delight, Petit Manan, Sally, Abbott, Egg Rock, South Twinnie, John's, Little Marshall, Ship, Trumpet, East and West Barge, Matinicus Rock, Two Bush, Two Bush, Hart, Franklin, Little Thrumcap, Outer White, Outer Heron, Pond, Upper Flag, and Ram.

We prohibit erection of permanent waterfowl blinds.

You must remove all temporary blinds, concealment materials, boats, and decoys (see § 27.93 of this chapter) each day.

SIGNS USED TO PROTECT VISITORS AND RESOURCES

Millions of people visit National Wildlife Refuges each year. The impact of human activity, if not regulated, can degrade these wildlands. Signs control recreational activities while protecting natural resources on the refuge. Please respect the following signs.



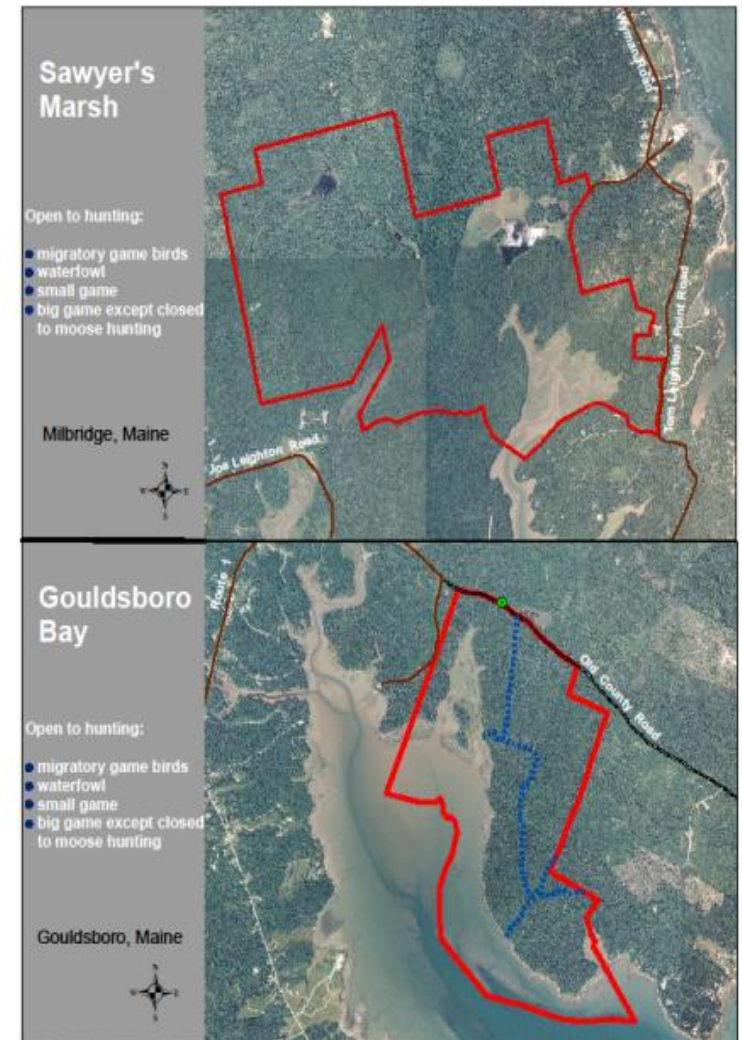
This area is closed to all hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are strictly prohibited (see map).



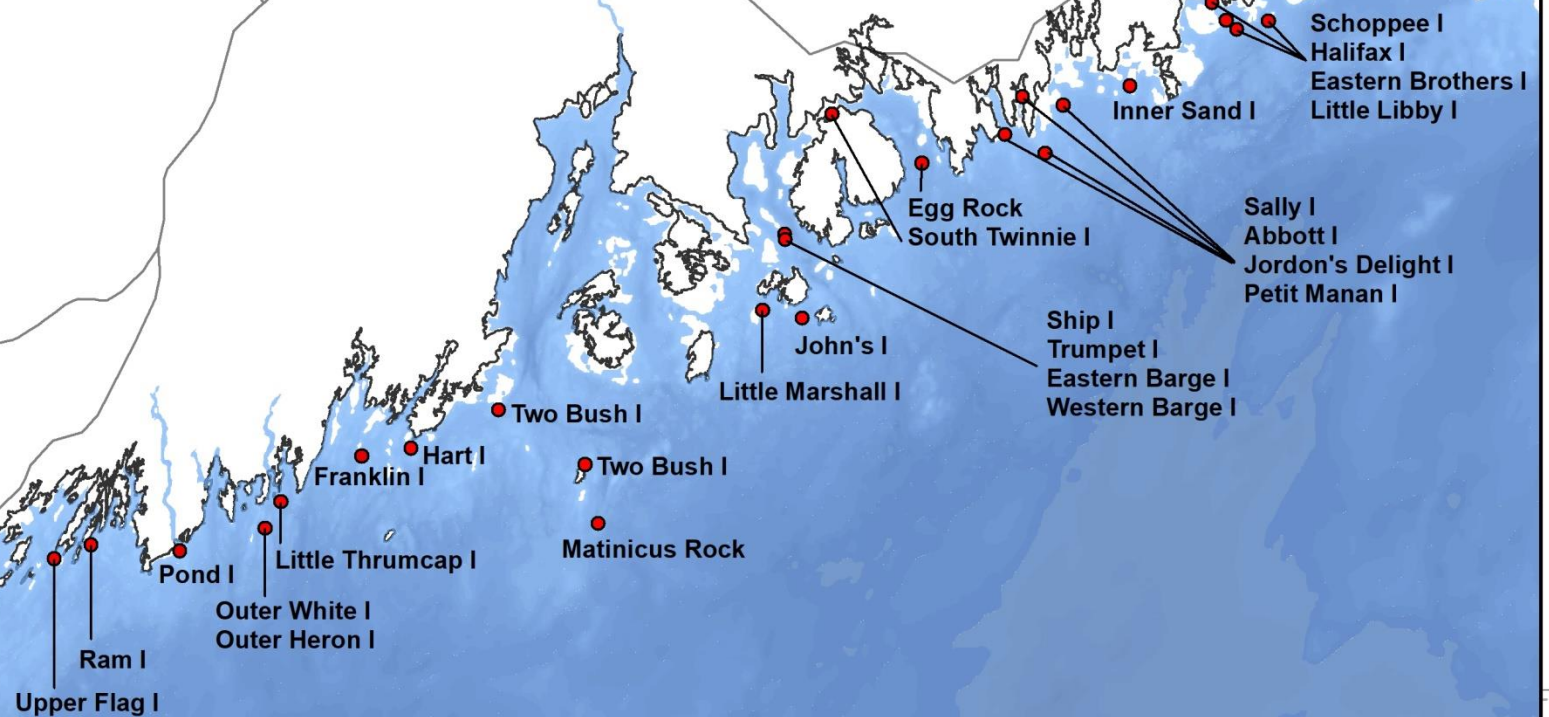
This area is closed to all public entry. No hunting, fishing or other activities are permitted. Roads or trails posted with this sign are also closed.



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, etc.)



Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge



Islands within Maine Coastal Islands NWR open to waterfowl hunting.